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**Total children in county under  
age 6: 13,418**

**Children under age 6 living in  
poverty: 7.5%**

### **Anderson County Highlights**

- Overall, 98% of our parents improved their pre/post scores based on at least one scale of the Parent Education Profile.
- "First Steps helps me and my child so I can help him learn what he needs to know."  
Parent, Anderson School District 3

# **Anderson County First Steps Partnership**

## *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

In the past year, Anderson County First Steps has continued to be a catalyst for change in the community, filling gaps and linking families to services to assure that Anderson County children are healthy and ready for success when they enter the first grade. During FY 2008, while focusing on *family strengthening, early education and quality child care*, we served hundreds of pre-school children and their families, helping them achieve a level of success that is literally changing their lives. We partnered with the five Anderson County school districts to implement family literacy and early education programs, and we provided quality enhancement interventions at Anderson Area YMCA Westside Pre-School, helping families and child care providers understand that they, too, are an important part of the educational continuum. **We also successfully convened a consortium of numerous strong community partners, including DHEC and AnMed Health, to apply for a Nurse Family Partnership Grant which was recently awarded to the Anderson Community.** Using collaborations and community partnerships as a cornerstone, Anderson County First Steps is helping to assure that all pre-school children and their families in Anderson receive optimal opportunities for leading healthy and productive lives.

Jeanne Yarborough  
Executive Director  
Anderson County First Steps

## **First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas**

*The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:*

**Family Strengthening:** A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

**Healthy Start:** Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

**Quality Child Care:** Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

**Early Education:** Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

**School Transition:** The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

## **2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING.**

#### **Anderson School District 1 Family Literacy Program**

**Program description:** Anderson School District 1 and Anderson County First Steps Partnership are collaborating to plan and implement a comprehensive Family Literacy program. The purpose of this strategy is to provide outreach and recruitment services to help prepare parents and children for success by integrating adult literacy, early childhood development, and parent/child interaction components; and to expand and enhance existing community resources. Families receiving these services must have children between the ages of birth and five who are likely to experience significant school readiness problems because of family literacy and/or other barriers to successful development.

**Program results:**

- 9 families – 9 adults and 9 children
- 4 clients progressed to the next grade level; 4 received high school diplomas; 1 received a GED
- 100% of parents showed improvement on pre/post scores on at least one scale of the Parent Education Profile
- 100% children increased their Ages and Stages pre/post assessments

**Anderson School District 2 Family Literacy Program**

**Program description:** The goal of the Anderson School District 2 Family Literacy Program is to provide a family-centered education program that integrates early childhood, adult literacy, parenting, and parent/child interaction components. The purpose of the strategy is to provide outreach and recruitment services and to coordinate with Anderson County First Steps Partnership to plan and implement a comprehensive family literacy program. Families receiving these services must have children between the ages of birth and five who are likely to experience significant school readiness problems because of family literacy and/or other barriers to successful development.

**Program results:**

- 14 families – 14 adults and 19 children
- 4 clients received high school diplomas; 2 clients received GEDs and 2 progressed to higher grade levels
- 100% of parents showed improvement on pre/post scores on at least one scale of the Parent Education Profile
- 100% clients who took TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) increased their pre/post scores

**Anderson School District 3 Family Literacy**

**Program description:** The goal of the Anderson School District 3 Family Literacy Program is to provide a family-centered education program that integrates early childhood, parenting, adult literacy, and parent/child interaction components. The purpose of this strategy is to provide recruitment and outreach services and to coordinate with Anderson County First Steps Partnership to plan and implement a comprehensive Family Literacy program. Families receiving these services must have children between the ages of birth and five who are likely to experience significant school readiness problems because of family literacy, parenting, and/or other barriers to successful development.

**Program results:**

- 11 families – 11 adults and 11 children
- 3 parents received GEDS; 3 parents progressed to next grade level; and 2 made improvements on TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) scores
- 100% of parents showed improvement on pre/post scores on at least one scale of the Parent Education Profile
- 100% of children assessed using Ages and Stages indicated normal development

**Anderson School District 4 Family Literacy Program**

**Program description:** The goals of the Anderson School District 4 Family Literacy Program are to: increase parent knowledge of child development; empower parents to provide children with a nurturing environment; increase literacy skills in parents; and encourage job acquisition or job advancement. Service activities include: 16 hours a week of center-based services such as Basic Adult education, GED, developmentally-appropriate child care on site using Creative Curriculum, parent training and parent-child Interaction time. The Keenan model of Family Literacy is used.

**Program results:**

- 13 families served – 13 adults and 19 children
- 4 clients received GEDs; 4 clients started jobs; and 92% improved TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) scores
- 100% of parents increased their pre/post scores based on at least one of the Parent Education Profile scales
- 100% of children increased their pre/post PPVT (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test) scores

**Anderson School District 5 Family Literacy Program**

**Program description:** Anderson School District 5 reaches out to its teen mothers from two high schools through its Family Literacy Program. First Steps funds provide quality early childhood education/child care in the form of an infant and toddler room for up to 12 children while their mothers have the opportunity to complete their education, i.e. high school diploma. Parent and child interaction sessions are conducted on a weekly basis.

**Program results:**

- 12 families – 12 adults and 13 children
- 4 clients received their high school diplomas; 100% of the remaining clients progressed to the next grade level
- 90% of the parents increased their pre/post scores based on at least one of the Parent Education Profile scales
- Overall children's scores on Ages and Stages assessment increased from average to above average

**QUALITY CHILD CARE.****Anderson County First Steps Quality Child Care Enhancement Program**

**Program description:** The mission of the Anderson County First Steps Quality Child Care Enhancement strategy is to enhance the learning environments in child care programs to help assure school readiness. Based on ITERS and ECERS, the child care providers must work with the Partnership's technical assistant to develop a plan that includes a pre- and post-assessment, timeline and budget to achieve facility enhancement; participate in specific training programs approved by the partnership; and participate in monitoring visits to ensure that materials, supplies and equipment are being used appropriately. The Partnership continues to collaborate with the

Anderson County Library to provide rotating Book Crates to 37 child care providers who have signed up for the program.

Program results:

- 4 child care providers impacting 230 children participated in the QE program
- 129 site visits totaling 360 technical assistance hours were conducted
- Average pre/post ERS (environmental rating scale) score increased by 22%
- 18 hours of DSS-registered, approved, and on-going training for QE participants were facilitated by the Partnership for 76 child care staff

## **EARLY EDUCATION.**

### **Anderson School District 1 4-K Full-day Class at Hunt Meadows Elementary**

**Program description:** Anderson School District 1 provides a high quality early education program serving an additional 20 at-risk 4-K students in one full-day class at Hunt Meadows Elementary School. This program follows all state guidelines, serves the most at-risk, and follows best practices including the implementation of High Scope, Creative Curriculum, and ECERS (early childhood environmental rating scale).

**Program results:**

- 20 children served in one 4-K full-day class
- 100% of the children progressed to 5-K classes
- 100% of parents who responded expressed satisfaction with the 4-K program

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b><u>Expenditures</u> By Funding Source</b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$515,687
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$ 32,528
Lottery Appropriation ( <i>Fund 35</i> )	\$
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 60</i> )	\$
C.O.E. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 65</i> )	\$
N.F.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 70</i> )	\$ 139
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$ 3,624
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$101,505
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$653,483</b>

<b><u>Expenditures</u> By Program / Strategy Name</b>	
2111 Family Literacy Model	\$355,801
3141 Full-Day 4-K	89,363
6011 Childcare Quality Enhancement (Public)	21,033
6012 Childcare Quality Enhancement (In-house)	51,893
6052 Childcare Training & Prof. Dev. (In-house)	15,569
Indirect Programmatic Functions	67,705
Administrative Functions	52,119
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$653,483</b>

***Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 26.88%***  
*(at least 15% Legislative requirement)*

# **COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## **Board Chair:**

Laura Long, DHEC

## **Board Members:**

Ron Acker, business

Laurie Ashley, non profit

Suzie Bannister, family education/training

Jan Bratcher, Anderson School District Two

Susan Brown, family education/training

Dr. Doris Cole, Pre-K-primary education

Marilyn Cosgrove, DSS

Michael Cunningham, parent

Latorrie Geer, transportation

Roy B. Jeffcoat, business

Betty Keys, early childhood education

Dawn Marcie, childcare/early education

Nancy Mauldin, childcare/early education

Shenicka McCray, parent

Kay McKee, Pre-K – primary

Valerie Meador, non-profit

Marcie Mynatt, faith community

Dianne Mizzell, Anderson School District Five

Boyd Owens, parent

Tanya Richbourg, Anderson School District One

Deborah Roegge, health

Vicki Simpson, Anderson School District 3

Angie Starks, Head Start

Cheryl Stewart, transportation

Kurt Stutler, faith

Amika Thomas, early childhood education

Charity Walker, Anderson School District 4

Lenna Young, early childhood education

## **Administrative Staff:**

Jeanne Yarborough, Executive Director

Deborah Sanders, Program Coordinator

Paige Wall, Program Assistant

## **COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT**

In FY08, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Anderson County

Total Children Under Six: 13,418

## CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

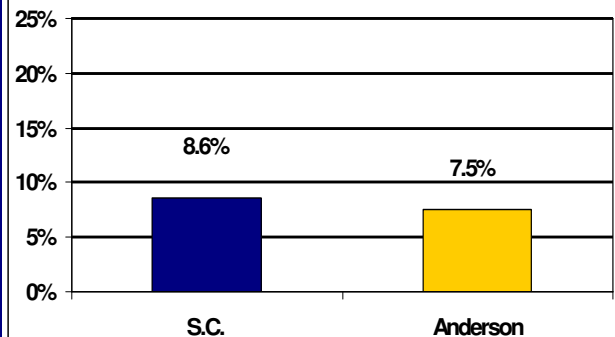
Anderson County (2007): 7.5%

***Fast Fact:*** Roughly 1 in 13 Anderson County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

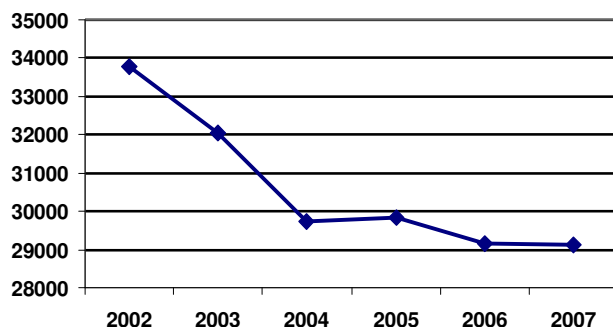
Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.

1,001 of Anderson County’s 13,418 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

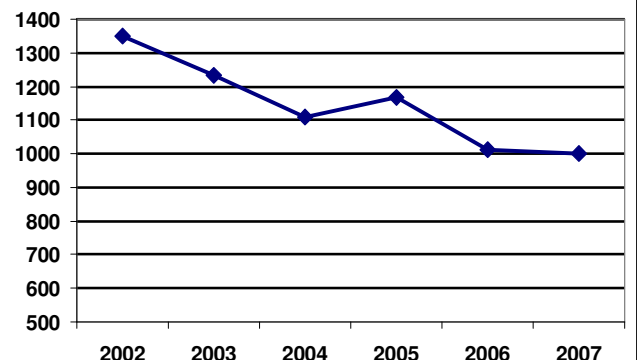
Children Under Age 6 Receiving TANF Benefits  
(August 2007)



South Carolina Children Under Age 6  
Receiving TANF Benefits  
2002-2007



Anderson Children Under Age 6  
Receiving TANF Benefits  
2002-2007



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Anderson County

Total Children Under Six: 13,418

## CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

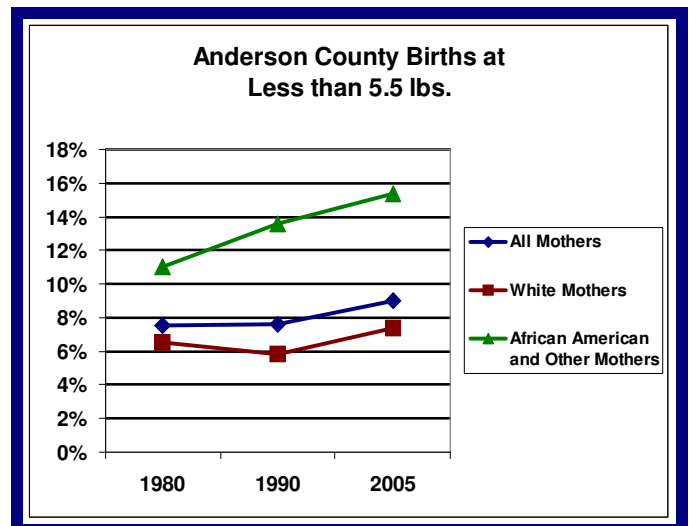
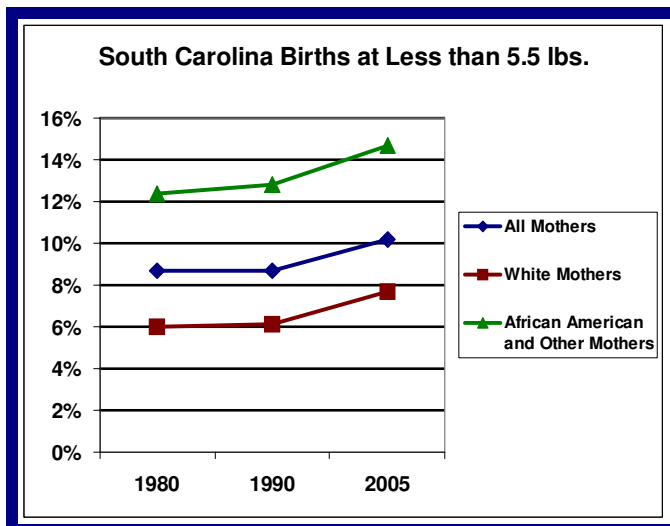
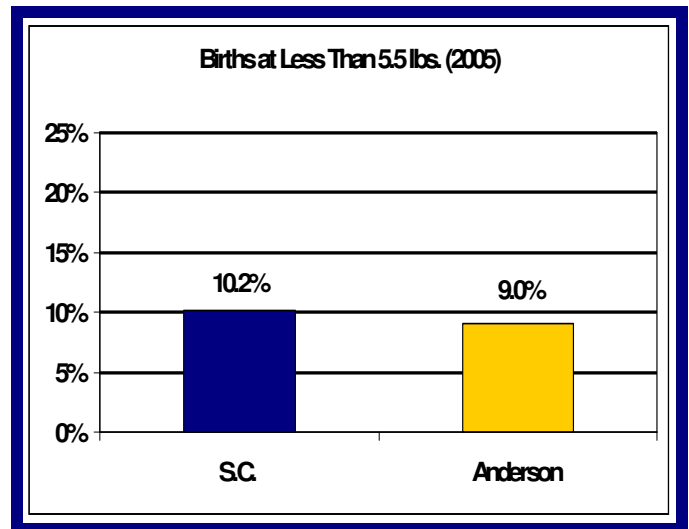
Anderson County (2005): 9.0%

***Fast Fact:*** Nearly 1 in 10 Anderson County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.

Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.

202 of the 2,248 children born in Anderson County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Anderson County

Total Children Under Six: 13,418

## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

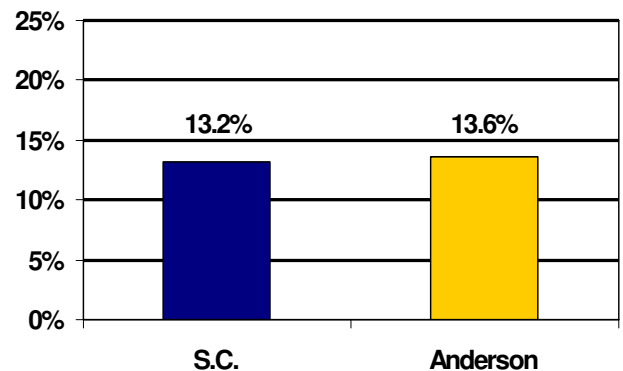
Anderson County (2005): 13.6%

**Fast Fact:** Just over 1 in 10 Anderson County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

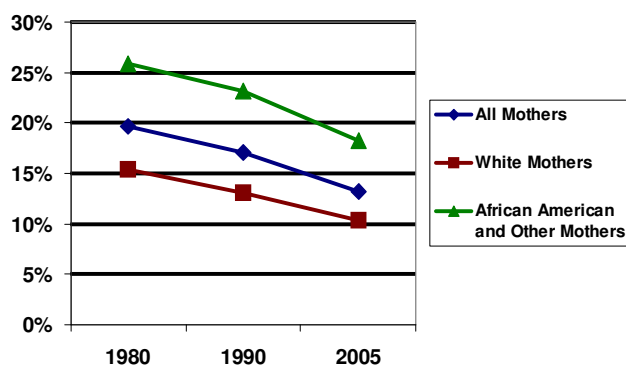
Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.

306 of the 2,248 children born in Anderson County during 2005 had teenage mothers.

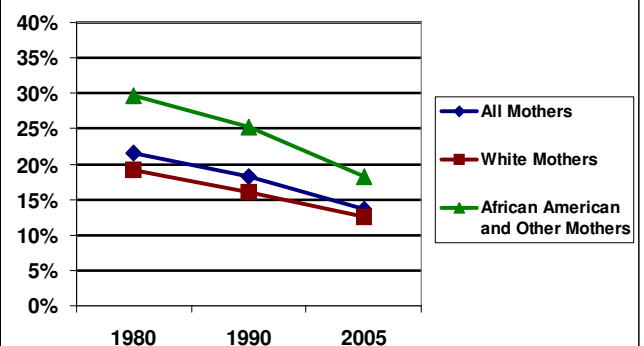
Births to Teenage Mothers (2005)



South Carolina Births to Teenage Mothers



Anderson County Births to Teenage Mothers



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Anderson County

Total Children Under Six: 13,418

## BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

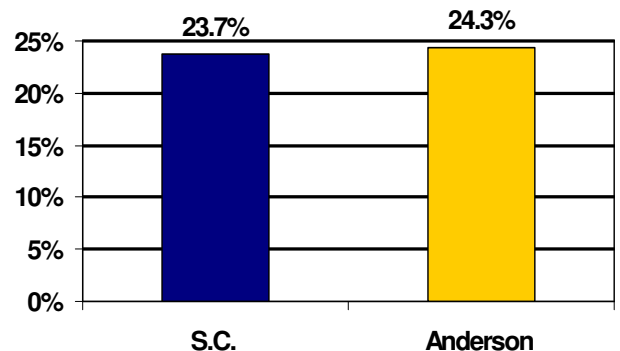
Anderson County (2005): 24.3%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 4 children in Anderson County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

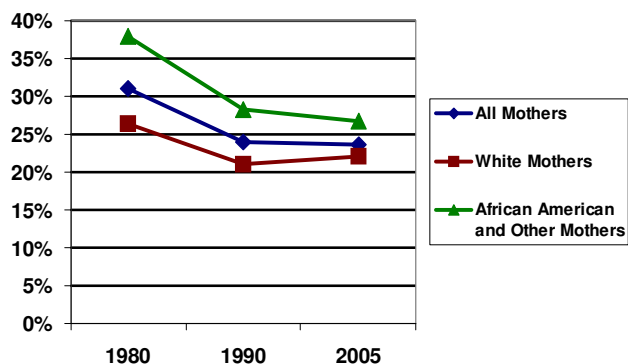
Research suggests that a mother's own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

546 of the 2,248 children born in Anderson County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

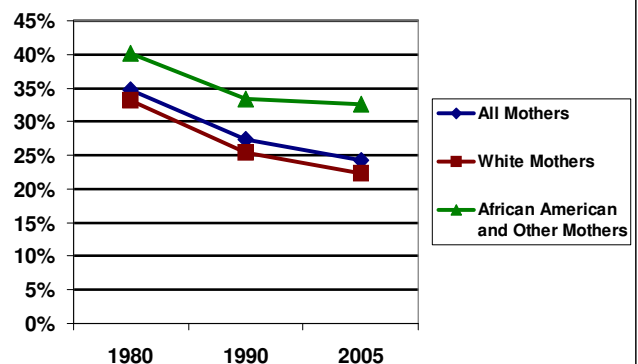
Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma (2005)



SC Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Anderson County Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



## **SUCCESS STORIES**

**Anderson School District 1:** KS's parents divorced when she was very young, and her life has been chaotic ever since. She has lived back and forth between her parents, feeling torn between their arguments. She moved in with her boyfriend during her junior year, skipped school frequently, and was at risk of failure. She became pregnant at the end of her junior year. After much angry exchange between KS and her parents, they accepted her pregnancy, and her mother asked her to move back into her home. When KS returned to school the following year, her guidance counselor began working with her closely and encouraged her to take courses necessary to graduate that school year. KS became motivated and determined. She had numerous health problems related to pregnancy, but kept up with school work. She was on homebound instruction longer than is typical, but was actually ahead of her class. But she faced a major obstacle just prior to returning to campus after her baby was born. She and her mother had a major disagreement, and she had to move in with her father. Her boyfriend's mother had agreed to keep the baby while KS was in school, but decided not to do so at the last minute. KS feared having to drop out of school. With the help of parent educators, KS was able to secure day care for her baby, making it possible for her to attend school without interruption. She was also referred to community resources for additional assistance. KS regularly attended parenting group meetings and had personal visits with the parent educator, during which she received support, parenting education, and information and guidance in practical ways to encourage and assist her baby's early education. She also received support and encouragement from her peers in the group. KS received her high school diploma in June 2008. She will attend Tri-County Technical College where she plans to pursue a nursing degree, and has applied for assistance to continue funding daycare.

**Anderson School District 2:** One of the goals of at least one adult family member per family in the program is to graduate either with a diploma or a GED. We were excited to report that four of the high school moms graduated from Belton Honea Path High School. Two of those moms had been in the program for over three years and had persevered through many difficult obstacles. One of the high school graduates finished with high honors. From our Adult Education families, two adults received their GED plus received a silver leveled certificate in the WorkKeys program of study. The WorkKeys Silver certificate indicates that the student has the skill in applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information to be successful at 65% of the jobs in the US.

**Anderson School District 3:** Parents expressed thanks for programs that gave them an opportunity to come into the school and meet teachers, receive parenting information, and books distributed by the program. One hundred percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the program helped their family, they were satisfied with the program, and expressed the desire for the program to continue and services to increase. Parent statements read: "It helped me realize the expectations for my child." "It helped me give my child a learning environment." "First Steps helped me get the right books and toys for my children!" "First Steps has helped me know how to talk to my child's

teachers." "The information helps me get my child ready for school." "My children love Preschool Club. It lets them interact with other children. They ask when the next Preschool Club is!" "First Steps helps me know how to help my child in the different stages." "First Steps helps me and my child so I can help him learn what he needs to know." "We spend more time reading and enjoy it" "It has helped me to understand stages of development."

Child Care facilities reported that model lessons helped the teachers broaden their ideas, think outside the box for learning activities, and better understand expectations of each child. It also helped motivate the children to learn by showing them that it is fun.

**Anderson School District 4:** One family stopped by last week and shared their successes. The mother attended our program during the 2004-05 school year. The dad attended 2005-06. Both parents received their GEDs. They have four children between them. The mom is working at a Greenville Hospital and making about \$35,000 a year. The dad called at the beginning of the year and asked if I knew where he could find childcare so he could go back to school. I referred him to Women and Children Succeeding. He was accepted into the program. WACS has provided childcare for the two smallest children, a van for the family, and beds and summer camp for the older two children. The dad is maintaining a 3.0 at Tri-County Tech.

The children in the 4K class at Pendleton PEEPS have studied the life cycle of a frog as a result of the "Frogs" theme box. After having the box in their classroom for a couple of days, one student went to a creek and caught some tadpoles. As a class, they are watching the tadpoles grow legs and turn into frogs. They are using the materials in the theme box to support the children's natural curiosity.

**Anderson School District 5:** Our 12<sup>th</sup> grade moms tell us that if it were not for the childcare provided for their infants that they would not be receiving their high school diploma this school year. Many of our teens tell us that they have formed a "network" with the other teen moms. They have also found a "community of safeness" where they can come to us to help answer questions concerning parenting skills and services they may need for their children.

This year the enthusiasm and excitement of children as young as one year old has overwhelmed the Child Care QE Technical Assistant. These youngest children eagerly gathered for group time upon the TA's arrival without the teachers instructing them to do so. They were ready and eager to participate in language experiences! On a regular basis, these children peeked into the TA's tote bag to see what she had brought to share with them. The oldest groups in the centers (the four year olds) have shown growth in letter and letter/sound recognition as well as beginning sound recognition. The teachers that regularly attend First Steps training sessions have told the TA how beneficial these sessions have been to them. They are the teachers that have become increasingly receptive to new ideas that will enhance the learning environment in their classrooms. The TA has seen them putting into practice what they have learned.

